

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide wherein the encoded polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 18-459 of SEQ ID NO:2.
2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the encoded polypeptide further comprises an affinity tag.
3. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the encoded polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 1-459 of SEQ ID NO:2.
4. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the encoded polypeptide is SEQ ID NO:2.
5. A nucleic acid molecule encoding a fusion protein, wherein the encoded fusion protein comprises a first portion and a second portion joined by a peptide bond, wherein the first portion consists of amino acid residues 18-459 of SEQ ID NO:2; and wherein the second portion consists another polypeptide.
6. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein the encoded fusion protein further comprises an affinity tag.
7. An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:
 - a transcription promoter;
 - a DNA segment encoding a polypeptide wherein the encoded polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 18-459 of SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - a transcription terminator.
8. The expression vector of claim 7 further comprising a secretory signal sequence operably linked to the DNA segment.

9. The expression vector of claim 8 further comprising an affinity tag operably linked to the DNA segment.

10. A cultured cell into which has been introduced an expression vector of claim 7, wherein the cell expresses the polypeptide encoded by the DNA segment.

11. A cultured cell into which has been introduced an expression vector of claim 8, wherein the cell expresses the polypeptide encoded by the DNA segment.

12. A method of producing a polypeptide comprising:
culturing a cell of claim 10; and
isolating the polypeptide produced by the cell.

13. A method of producing a polypeptide comprising:
culturing a cell according to claim 11; and
isolating the polypeptide produced by the cell.